

the organized farmer

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FARMERS MARCH TO OTTAWA April 28

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PASS THE HAT . . . is a time-honored phrase among country people. Whenever something worthwhile comes along, the plea to dig deep into their pockets always seems to get results. At a recent meeting in Radway, the people shown here collected enough to pay expenses. Now, another call for passing the hat has gone out—to pay expenses for a march on Ottawa—to help the government remember its promises to Canada's farmers!

Farm Cash Income Jumps While Net Take Slides

Alberta's 1964 farm cash income increased \$76 million or 11.5 per cent compared to 1963 but total net income decreased by approximately \$36 million during the year.

R. E. English, Agricultural Statistician with the Alberta Farm Economics Branch, reports that last year's gross income from the sale of farm products totalled \$596 million compared to \$520 million in 1963. Total net income, on the other hand, decreased from \$323 million in 1963 to less than \$287 million in 1964.

Mr. English points out that two factors were responsible for the paradox between the cash and net income statement. These were high farm inventories recorded on December 31, 1963 and an increase in production costs in 1964.

Since the Canadian Wheat Board drew wheat required for shipment to Russia in the fall of 1963 from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the movement of wheat from Alberta was relatively light until after the New Year. Consequently, farm inventory values at the end of 1963 were up \$92 million from the previous year.

The other factor contributing to the discrepancy between cash

and net incomes was that farm operating and depreciation charges rose from \$342 million in 1963 to \$360 million in 1964. According to Mr. English this increase amounted to almost \$300 for each commercial farm in the province.

A.R.D.A. Project For Wetaskiwin and Lacombe

A project designed to utilize certain lands in the counties of Wetaskiwin and Lacombe for forestry production has been approved by federal and provincial ADRA authorities.

District agriculturists W. L. McNary of Lacombe, and W. C. Proctor of Wetaskiwin, requested that an ADRA project covering forestry extension should be devised for their areas so that certain lands within their counties could be used for forestry production.

The first part of the project, known as the Woodlot Watershed

GENERAL SCIENCES

Throne Speech Promises Improved Farm Policy - CFA

The undertaking of responsibility by the Federal Government for establishing an enlarged and sustained level of returns for Canada's family farms, announced in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Third Session of the 26th Parliament promises a fundamental improvement in the approach to farm policy in Canada, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture said today. Action, to make farm income "larger and more reliable" through special measures of assistance is a welcome announcement. It should help compensate for the persistent income disadvantage which farmers experience and which has been a recognized feature of the economic scene for many years.

In February, in its annual submission to Cabinet, the CFA declared that we are moving into an

Calgary Co-op

Sales of over \$8 million and a 3 1/2 % patronage refund created new records for the Calgary Cooperative Association in 1964. The association, which now operates three stores in Calgary, has purchased a site for a fourth, construction of which will cost \$1 million.

A.R.D.A. Project For

Wetaskiwin and Lacombe

Survey, calls for an extension forester to work with each area to determine what lands are now supporting tree growth and what lands should be in trees to provide watershed protection and farm woodlot development. Once the survey has been completed, the forester will work with land owners in the development of woodlots and watershed protection programs.

Alberta's ADRA Co-ordinator G. R. Sterling says benefits from these programs will include usable wood products, erosion control through tree planting along stream and river banks, wildlife management and the better use of land now misused or lying idle. Increased revenue in the form of more usable wood products and off-season work is also envisaged.

The project will be carried out by Forest Management and Forest Survey Planning Branches of the Alberta Forest Service. They will be assisted where necessary by the Alberta Department of Agriculture.

Fertility

Crops on irrigated land depend more on soil fertility for increased yield than on any other factor. Adding commercial fertilizer is one way of increasing the fertility of the soil. And now that machinery for applying fertilizer and methods of application have become more exact the results are even more encouraging.

CIS Appoints Operations Head

The appointment of G. T. Marklund, Regina, as CIS Operations Manager has been announced by G. Lloyd Matheson, general manager, Cooperative Insurance Services (CIS Ltd.).

Mr. Marklund, who holds a Fellowship in the Insurance Institute of Canada, has been associated with the insurance industry since 1946. He joined Cooperative Insurance in 1956 and has held several managerial positions including that of Saskatchewan Fire & Casualty Branch Manager; Administration Manager—Regina multiple line operation; Special Projects Manager; and Administrative Assistant to the General Manager.

In his new post Mr. Marklund will have direct responsibility for



C. T. MARKLUND

CIS branch operations, sales, personal lines, underwriting, and general insurance claims.

More, Or Less Democratic?

Speaking to an FUA Sub District meeting at Woking in the Peace River District March 30, FUA President Babey, drew attention to the facts of voting behavior in elections. He contrasted regulations under which people are selected for public office with the procedure set up for holding farm marketing plebiscites.

Mr. Babey said:

"While final results of the recent by-election in Edson are still unofficial, one point is clear. Less than 1/4 of the eligible voters are going to decide who the new M.L.A. is going to be. Will Premier Manning declare the election null and void since none of the candidates were successful in receiving a mandate from 51% of the eligible voters? These rules are applicable to farmers when they vote on a marketing plan under the Agricultural Products Marketing Act. If this is a fair way of establishing a democratic decision where farmers are concerned, then it should also apply in the Edson by-election."

Yes, we have a NEW BATCH OF FWUA COOK BOOKS! The price is still the same for the regular style — \$1.50 each, 6 for \$8.00, or 12 for \$13.00.

And within a week or two, hard-bound editions of the cook book will become available through central office. These will sell for \$2.75 apiece, and will be in limited supply.

CORRECTION

In the March 15 issue of the Organized Farmer, we published a resume on the Alberta Farm Purchase Board. In so doing, we overlooked an important point.

First of all, it has been brought to our attention that the total value of land holdings, including the proposed purchase, must not exceed \$40,000 if the purchaser is to take advantage of the Farm Purchase Board service. This regulation is spelled out under the terms of the Alberta Farm Purchase Credit Act.

For complete information on the Farm Purchase Credit Act, drop in at your local municipal or county office.

District 12 Junior F.U.A. Meeting

The meeting of the District 12 Junior FUA was held in the High River Community Centre on March 20, 1965. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 by President Wilson Loree.

The convention which is to be held on July 2 and 3 was discussed. Wilson Loree reported on the convention held last year.

It was decided to hold our next meeting on August 1 at 2:30 at Little Bow Park. Everyone is asked to bring their own food.

Following the adjournment of the meeting Jim Shearer of Carmangay gave an interesting report on his trip to New York.

Editorial . . .

Central Office — More Than Just A Place

At a recent country meeting a Central Office staff member was questioned regarding the operations of the Manitoba Hog Marketing Commission. When he replied that according to information he had, things were going well, the questioner continued, "Look! This is your job. Why don't you go and see for yourself so that we (the members) may have firsthand information?" This staff member could very well have replied, "Wonderful! I would love to go. **BUT**, where does the money for the trip come from?"

The spending of Central Office, and the program that is carried out varies directly as the membership. The people concerned with carrying out the policy would very much like to be able to journey to various areas to find out first hand how things, which affect our policy, are progressing. The ability to carry out this type of a program rests in the hands of the members.

Such a program could be made possible in two ways. First by increasing the membership fee and thereby increasing the budget or secondly, by the present members accepting the responsibility that their duty lies not only in being members themselves, but in seeing to it that their neighbors are members as well. This will increase the budget, increase the activities and the value of Central Office to the members. And last, but by no means least, this would increase the strength of our voice when dealing with other organizations.

Let each and every member accept the challenge, contact your neighbor, sign him up and put the membership over the top. It's not too late—there are still six months of the membership year left.

D. H. G.
* * *

Guest Editorial . . .

The Farmers' Position

The recently announced cuts in the price of wheat have been somewhat of a shock to farmers all over the prairies. Whether or not we expect a reduction in our income makes little difference. When the actual cut does come along we find it hard to take. Nor would it be so bad if this were the only blow that agriculture has suffered. The poor grades which prevailed last fall were an even more severe blow than will be the price reduction. Still there is more than this, for there has been a levelling off of the price of livestock—again further complicated by a hard winter in which feed usage is high and gains tend to be low—and feed, if you have to buy it, costly.

We're not crying blue ruin—far from it. In fact we believe that, in the long run, the farmers position economically is a pretty secure one. But bills have to be paid right now—and the cost of farming has not dropped.

Subsidy is a bad word on many tongues, but if we go out on a limb and start saying that subsidies are not good, it might be well for us to spend a few minutes noting down the wide variety of industries in Canada who have been getting subsidies for many years and who would claim that it would be sheer folly to expect them to operate on an open market.

At the same time the farmer, who would like to go it alone finds himself in the unhappy position of having to pay added prices for a good many of the things he buys because industry finds that aid is necessary.

From where we sit it appears that the future could hold a situation where a lot of people in Canada are going to have to cut their prices, or find themselves unable to fit into a world where increased trade and better distribution of goods and services may be the only alternative to a wholesale upheaval that could bring chaos within our own shores.

Surely it is not being unduly prophetic to suggest that the peace of the world, within the foreseeable future, can only be maintained if a really effective effort is made to do away with mass starvation and the poverty of the underprivileged races. This will require the facilitation of trade and the exchange of goods and services. If there is not a strong inference here that trade barriers will have to go down we are badly mistaken. Taking down trade barriers and meeting up with world competition may well mean that we will be forced to trim off a bit of the fat from our living standards for a while.

That's for the future. Right now we have a farming population which is attempting to produce as efficiently as possible, and to finance their operation in the face of increasing capital and labor costs. Lots of farmers are doing very well financially—and why shouldn't they—they work hard enough and have enough invested. However they cannot continue to do as well as they should unless there is some uniformity of treatment handed out to ALL branches of the Canadian economy. If manufactures are to be protected and people are going to be called upon to pay the extra costs involved, then it is hardly unreasonable that farmers may have to seek some measure of price stabilization. Of course we realize that if everybody received a subsidy and that is came out of everybody's pocket nobody would be any better off—and it would be better to scrap subsidies altogether. Perhaps this is the case right now.

In the meantime most residents of the town of Wainwright and every resident of the smaller centres, is, economically, a farmer. The dollars that go into the farmers pocket are the ones that keep his cash register making music. When the farmer's purse dries up, so does his source of revenue. This applies whether he is the tinker, the tailor, or the candlestick maker—and doctors, dentists and lawyers come into the picture too.

We should all take a personal interest in the farmer's position—and if there is anything we should or can do, we should be ready and willing to do it.

—Reprinted from the Wainwright Star-Chronicle

OPEN FORUM

Dear Sir:

What is wrong with our political parties of the present day? A resolution to the recent Liberal convention asked that they have an 'out and out return to free enterprise policy. The officers assured delegates this would receive full attention.'

The old line parties are traveling down the middle of the road and getting nothing done. I believe this is because conservatives have taken over the control of the Liberal Party and many of the Liberals have joined the Conservative Party. So we end up with leadership that doesn't know where it is going and a public that has become indifferent because no matter which of the two parties they vote for, nothing is achieved.

As a result of this, the members who believed in certain principles formed new organizations. The Social Credit Party started as a reform party demanding social changes. They have since forgotten their original obligation to the people and have adopted the

policy these people are looking for in the Liberal Party, but haven't the moral principles to join the party promoting this thinking. The New Democratic Party have withdrawn from the Liberals because the Liberals would not stand for certain principles of Public Responsibility.

Until the Liberals and Conservatives put their house in order and reform their membership qualifications there will be splinter parties who stand for certain principles. Those jumping from pillar to post without knowing what they are seeking will be badly disappointed because neither party can be satisfactory.

Like a drunk, driving down the road one doesn't know which side of the white line he will be on next.

N. Flach
* * *

Dear Editor:

We wish to convey our thanks and congratulations to our President, Paul Babaey on his recent outspoken and timely remarks and statements on the farmers plight—using costs-declining prices. And his sensible conclusion that no "extra efficiency" can bridge the gap.

We Each Play Small Roles, Taken Together We Have Impact

Here are the views of another member on the changing roles of members within the farm organization, in particular what Mrs. Don Slemp of Fleet, Alberta feels is a definite role the F.W.U.A. has to play. "I feel we should be doing something concrete about it," she says.

"Let us examine our name—we are auxiliary to the Farmers' Union of Alberta and as such should be studying the policy and aims of our organization—with—as we are the distaff side of the organization, particular emphasis on Health, Education and Welfare.

"It is good that a woman heads the health and welfare department in our country as a woman has a slightly different—not necessarily better—viewpoint, than a man in these specific fields. In conjunction with what men have learned, in these fields through the years we get wider and better coverage in these departments.

World-wide Contacts Important

"Our FUA was formed to protect and advance the rights of a common man, 'the farmer'. I feel that we all could learn more about where our organization is leading us. We have sent a trade and agricultural mission to China last year. I feel that our organization should be learning all we can of this venture.

The ACWW meetings are the same. We should find out what particular items were discussed and what conclusions were drawn from the meeting. We have learned that world wide, women's problems are much the same. The delegates have benefitted greatly and because of their horizons being widened our organization will benefit. However, I feel that is only part of the picture. I feel that we should be learning what was accomplished and where these meetings will lead.

Change Certain

Last year at the convention the theme was re-organization of the union—and how it will take place. There was no if presented to us—it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that in order to survive there has to be a change made and the only questions to be answered were—HOW and WHEN. In the FWUA the consensus was that the women still wish to have their own particular segment in the larger organization. I feel that the women's group is acting much like a 'committee' in that we deal with specific matters and then present our findings to a main body of governors to be dealt with from there.

Last year at the convention we were given an evaluation sheet to fill out. I remember two of

Also, we wish to publicly support the statements made by Mr. Henry Lembecz in his letter in your 15th issue. He has done a lot of good work for the farmer—thank you Henry.

I think it is time our organization woke up to the fact that all the provincial department of agriculture clinics, farm short courses, etc., are only a smoke screen to keep farmers from tackling their real problem—high costs—low returns.

Martin Luther King has proven that a just cause can be won with publicity, and determination. Let's tackle the job.

G. A. Fretwell,
Clive, Alberta.

U.S. Cheese In Japan Exhibit

The United States was one of eight countries to demonstrate cheese recently at the 7th Annual World Cheese Exhibit at Tokyo. The exhibit—held at the Mitsukoshi department store, one of Japan's largest—attracted some 50,000 persons, has now moved on to other major Japanese cities.

hibitive, Japan will settle for a lesser quality and we will have to find another market.

Japan also buys our rapeseed—a poorer quality than that from Red China—but Japan and Red China do not trade at the present time. Thinking this over, I realize that our trade mission will be thinking in terms of another market for our rapeseed when the trade barriers between these two countries are removed.

World Economics Affect Us

I see also that Red China is having an industrial boom and that if she could produce more than enough for her own needs she could undersell our manufacturers in our own country. Therefore as this industrial expansion continues it is reasonable to assume that it will eventually affect our workers and our standard of living.

As I thought these matters over, I realized that this trade mission to the Orient is establishing more than just an idea of how the other lives—it brings us face to face with the realities of relationships and inter-relationships between countries and peoples of different races and nationalities.

Reading objectively in this manner, I realize that our economics are directly affected by the economics of others. Therefore, I feel that as a member of the FUA, we, each one of us, need to realize to the full that what we ask for and what we do has an effect so far-reaching that we cannot fully comprehend the potential effect our notions may have upon our organization, our country and our position in the family of the nations.

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Mental Health Act Discussed At Canadian Mental Health Meeting

By Mrs. J. R. Hallum

Annual meeting of the CMHA Alberta Division was held at the Highlander, Calgary on March 20th.

The business of 1964 was reviewed. Committee chairmen reported, and all active branches brought a report.

In spite of the large job ahead of this organization, a spirit of optimism was present throughout the meeting.

S.M.V. Fluorescent Triangle Now Available From 4-H'ers

4-H members in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba will soon be engaged in the distribution of a new traffic sign known as the Slow Moving Vehicle emblem. The sign has been developed to identify farm, construction and other equipment which normally travels at speeds under 25 mph.

The emblem consists of a 20 inch equilateral triangle with a 4 inch cutback on each corner. The triangle has a fluorescent red center for daylight identification and a two inch reflective red border which glows at night when caught in the headlight beams of approaching vehicles. This de-

PRINTERS' STRIKE: A LESSON FOR FARMERS

Without the Industrial Revolution, and the great machine age that it made possible, the people of Europe and America would never have reached the wonderful standard of living we now have. The use of modern machinery has made us healthier and wealthier than any people who have ever lived, and I think we are much happier than our ancestors were.

I thought of this the other night, when I watched a TV program which dealt with the printers strike in Toronto. These printers went on strike last summer, because new automated typesetting machines were being installed. Like the workers of 200 years ago, they tried to stop the use of machines, for fear of losing their jobs. All they accomplished was to hasten the use of the machines, and put themselves out of work.

The owners of the newspapers, on the other hand, were under the pressure of competition. They must use the latest and best and cheapest method of printing, or go out of business.

It seems to me that no one can be blamed for this unfortunate affair, but I do think the Union should have seen the problem, and worked it out some years ago. They could have discouraged young men from becoming typesetters, established training classes for their members, for other jobs, and worked closely with the owners of the newspapers to soften the blow when the machines were finally installed.

There is a lesson in this for farmers. The farm of the future is going to be automated, within the next 50 years, beyond anything we can dream of today, and we need to recognize that we must not stand in the way of such improvements. If we do, we too are sure to lose. If the small family farm does not fit the picture, it will have to give way to a larger unit. If marketing boards are needed in order to control our marketing, we must have marketing boards, even if they do upset some of our old-fashioned ideas. If a single organization is needed to represent agriculture, we must set it up, even if it does effect a lot of our present organizations.

Progress always hurts someone. But it will hurt a lot more if we do not plan for it, and so be as ready as possible when the next steps must be taken.

—Bill Harper

The regional board was elected for 1965.

It is my privilege to represent you again. I would like to note here that our financial help was down considerable last year. Let us not forget our donations.

A testimonial dinner was held to honor Dr. H. E. Smith, former Dean of Education U. of A. In 1964 Dr. Smith won a national award for exceptional service to the mental health movement. Dr.

Smith is the founder of the movement in Alberta and the CMHA provincial president. He helped to establish the first Edmonton branch in 1954, and three years later the Alberta Division.

Mental Health Act

Dr. A. R. Schrag assistant director of the mental health division of the Alberta Health department was the dinner speaker. He explained the new Alberta Mental Health Act. He said the act protects the rights and human dignity of the patient and reduces custodial aspects to a minimum.

Dr. Schrag said the intent of the act is that wherever possible

a mentally disturbed person should be admitted to a mental hospital as a voluntary patient. But, in cases where the patient is unwilling to enter a hospital, his admission and detention should be accomplished with a minimum of legalistic procedure, while at the same time protecting his legal and civil rights as a citizen. Three forms of admission were adopted by legislation.

Voluntary admission by two medical certificates, or one medical certificate which carries a 72 hour detention authority. In the latter cases this would come from an isolated area where there is

only one resident doctor. The medical certificates differ from the previous certificates because they do not require approval of a magistrate and have only a limited time of authority.

I am sure that our FWUA women should be very pleased with the new act, as many of the things we objected in the old act have been removed. Please remember the address of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Alberta Division is 618 Revillon Building, Edmonton, as for the publication CMHA View Points. (CMHA also has offices upstairs in the FUA Building —Ed)

There's a Man in Your District Who Will Help You AVOID SPRING SEEDING DELAYS



... Your UFA Co-op Maple Leaf Agent! He has the equipment and know-how to keep your storage tanks full... even in rush seasons and will advise on what oil and grease to use on any particular machine. Your UFA Co-op Maple Leaf agent sells you products that are very top in quality... and he sells them to you the way YOU like to do business:—no specials, no discounts, no gimmicks—just honest merchandising with the UFA Co-op member-customer sharing the savings!

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- GRANDE PRAIRIE
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